Teachers who are planning your lessons for November may find it helpful to integrate some of the following, to infuse LGBTQ/2-spirit* cultural awareness into the every day life of your classroom. Especially those teaching history, civics, social studies, family and consumer sciences, or language arts. Items #6-9 will be useful in teaching writing skills. Item #10 will be of particular use in civics and government classes.

1. Important dates to acknowledge in LGBTQ history for November … and days of national recognition
2. Indigenous viewpoints on Thanksgiving
3. Two-spirit/GLBTQ* indigenous people to honor in the name of National American Indian Heritage Month
4. Links to web sites by and for and about two-spirit/GLBTQ* indigenous people
5. Books, Lesson Plans and Curricula (K-12) for teaching about gender
6. Quotes (writing prompts) from openly LGBT and/or two-spirit indigenous people and heterosexual indigenous allies to inspire students' journaling
7. Other quotes from LGBTQ folks to inspire students' journaling
8. Quotes from people whose sexual orientation and gender identity we don't know … about sexism, misogyny, gender, feminism, homophobia and heterosexism
9. Quotes from people whose sexual orientation and gender identity we don't know … about elections and voting and democracy
10. Rock your Rights … what to do if your right to vote is challenged at the polls (from RocktheVote.org)

NOTE: You will find recent past email messages archived at http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/listserv/index.html and all of these monthly lesson planning guides are archived at http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/blackboard-history.html

* LGBTQ = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Queer.
** Two-spirit = a term of honor to describe a Native American or other Indigenous LGBTIQ person, implying their special role as a spiritual bridge among genders. Usually the term is not chosen by an individual to describe him or herself (which would seem self-aggrandizing to many in Indian Country). More often it is a designation of respect conferred upon an individual by an elder.

November 1983 - Sharon Kowalski is paralyzed in a car accident. It will be 9 years of legal battles before her partner, Karen Thompson, will be allowed by a judge to bring her home … In 1983, Sharon was hit and paralyzed by a drunk driver. Karen, her partner of four years, with whom she had exchanged rings and owned a home, wasn’t allowed to see her that night in the hospital or even to know her condition. She wasn't considered “family.” A judge agreed with the hospital, awarding custody of Sharon to her parents, who for 4 years prevented the couple from even seeing one another. But Karen was in court that whole time, fighting for Sharon's right to come home. Finally, after a total of nine years of lawyers and courtrooms, the couple was reunited in February 1992. Read their story in the remarkable book Why Can’t Sharon Come Home?

November 2, 1961 - k.d. lang is born Kathryn Dawn in Consort, Alberta, Canada. She’ll grow up to become a multiple Grammy-winning singer/songwriter and an androgynous, unapologetic gay woman (her choice of words), one of the first performers of her caliber ever to come out.
November 2, 1948 -- Mandy Carter is born. Femmenoir.net says that Carter was raised in orphanages and foster care and describes her today as "one of the nation's leading African American lesbian activists."

November 6, 1658 - In Mexico, fourteen men are burned to death and one given 200 lashes after having been convicted of sodomy per 365gay.com, Gay Canada's national online daily newspaper. (That's "only" 345 years ago ... But think that executing people simply for being queer is a thing of the past or that it has happened only in other countries? Think again. On November 30, 1624, in the Virginia Colony, Richard Cornish was hanged for sodomy. His execution was the first of its kind to be recorded in the American colonies, according to the Public Broadcasting System. In January of 2002, three Saudi gay men were beheaded for their homosexuality -- see http://www.thegully.com/essays/gaymundo/020104_saudi_gays_killed.html. In November of 2005, Iran publicly hung two men, ages 24 and 25, for homosexual conduct -- see http://hrw.org/english/docs/2005/11/21/iran12072.htm).

November 7, 2000 - The people of Oregon reject Measure 9, a proposal that would have outlawed any affirming discussion of gay or lesbian people in schools. Rejecting homophobia, they become one of the first states in which the voters themselves support the provision of accurate, unbiased education about sexual orientation.

November 13, 2008 - Mix It Up at Lunch Day is a simple call to action: take a new seat in the cafeteria. By making the move, students can cross the lines of division, meet new people and make new friends. Make a move and organize Mix It Up at Lunch Day in your school! Apply for a grant. Survey your school. Start planning now: http://www.tolerance.org/teens/lunch.jsp?ttnewsletter=ttnewsgen-090908

November 14, 1942 -- "[In] Germany, The SS (storm troops) informs concentration camp commandants that they are free to sterilize any of the prisoners under their control. The directive gives official approval to the practice, already instituted in some camps, of castrating males suspected of sexual attraction to other men." http://www.aaronsgayinfo.com/timeline/Ftime40.html

November 15, 1887 - American painter Georgia O'Keefe is born. A bisexual woman, O'Keefe is best known for her amazing oil paintings of flowers: http://www.artchive.com/artchive/O/okeefe.html#images

November 15, 1978 - Margaret Mead dies at age 76. Mead, who was bisexual, was perhaps the most famous anthropologist in the world at the time of her death. She helped the world to understand that gender roles differed from culture to culture. She once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

November 17, 1960 - RuPaul is born RuPaul Andre Charles. He'll grow up to be an entertainer of diva stature, perhaps the most famous drag queen in the world.

November 18, 2003 - The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court rules that the state's constitution guarantees equal marriage rights for same-sex couples, sparking a national wildfire of civil disobedience (the issuing of marriage licenses authorized by mayors and city councils in San Francisco, CA; Portland, OR; New Paltz, NY and Sandoval County, N.M.) and dozens of lawsuits in those and many other jurisdictions.

November 20, 1996 - The Ashland Wisconsin school district agrees to pay former student Jamie Nabozny $900,000 in damages. * This nearly one-million-dollar settlement makes Jamie the first of a long string of students to successfully sue schools and school employees for failing to protect them from horrendous homophobic abuse. See

http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/history/LGBT_historyNovember.pdf
November 28, 1944 - Out, proud lesbian novelist Rita Mae Brown is born. She would attend New York University (NYU) where she'd co-founded the first gay group on a campus or school in the United States (and possibly in the world), the Student Homophile League.

November 29, 1915 - Jazz great Billy Strayhorn (William Thomas Strayhorn) is born. Planet Out says, "Although Billy Strayhorn was considered by many to be Duke Ellington's musical superior, his refusal to stay in the closet forced him to take a back seat. Central to the jazz movement, Strayhorn infused his compositions with complex harmonies and plenty of soul. His willful obscurity brought him much pain, but it also served to fuel his creativity and boundless talent."


November 29, 1999 - "Michigan School District Ordered to Apologize for Removal of Gay History Displays -

On this day ... Arbitrator Paul E. Glendon issued an opinion that acting superintendent of the Plymouth-Canton, Michigan, Community Schools, Kenneth Walcott, had violated both union contract rights and constitutional rights when he ordered the removal of two displays on gay and lesbian history month. Michael Chiumento, the band teacher at West Middle School, Thomas Salbenblatt, a math teacher at Salem High School, had both put up displays about gay and lesbian history in October 1999. Walcott, claiming to have received complaints from some parents ordered the material be removed. Both teachers had had displays in previous years without incident and with no objections from their principals. Walcott then went on TV claiming they were trying to promote a gay "lifestyle" at school. The teachers union filed grievances on behalf of both teachers, complaining that their academic freedom rights were being violated and that Walcott had not followed procedure. During arbitration, Walcott claimed he was not trying to censor the teachers, but that the displays did not relate to the school curriculum. Glendon indicated that he felt the real reason for Walcott's ordering of the removal of the displays was because the teachers were gay and that the displays were to promote their "lifestyle." No formal charges had been filed against the teachers. Glendon found that school district failed in its obligation to afford proper procedures to the teachers in this matter, and violated its duty to protect the academic freedom of teachers in the face of complaints from parents and found that Walcott had potentially damaged the teacher's reputations and professional standing and subjected them to public harassment on account of his actions. Glendon ordered the school district to provide a written apology to each teacher and to "desist from such violations in the future." per Queery.com's "Gay on this Day"

(2) Indigenous viewpoints on Thanksgiving

- Rethinking Columbus, Second Edition (which includes a chapter on "Rethinking Thanksgiving"): http://www.rethinkingschools.org/publication/columbus/columbus.shtml
- Teaching About Thanksgiving, by a Tacoma teacher and historian: http://www.ewebtribe.com/NACulture/articles/thanksgiving.html
- Thanksgiving Mourning, a lesson plan for grades 7-12 from Teaching Tolerance: http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=752

(3) Two-spirit/GLBT indigenous people to honor in the name of National American Indian Heritage Month
Dr. Paula Gunn Allen is an award-winning Laguna Pueblo/Sioux/Lebanese/Scottish poet and novelist and professor and an out lesbian. More about her, including a photo, at: http://www.nativewiki.org/Paula_Gunn_Allen and http://www.glbtq.com/literature/allen_pg.html

Barcheeampe was a "woman chief" of the Crow Nation. According to Bending the Mold: An Action Kit for Transgender Youth (a publication of NYAC and Lambda), Barcheeampe "was spotted by appalled white travelers in Wyoming and Montana; she was [widely acclaimed and highly honored] for her war exploits and for having several wives." See http://books.google.com/books?id=cWuG0efwzJoC&pg=PA24&lpg=PA24&dq=barcheeampe&source=web&ots=_SsC05vlUC&sig=Q5tzppPuPh8mG-7q-KgFl-UqOAw

Jewell Gomez is an out, proud lesbian novelist and essayist and the Program Director at the San Francisco Arts Commission. She's African American and Native American (Wampanoag/Ioway) and was raised poor and Catholic. She and her partner of 11 years, Diane Sabin, were among the couples who sued the state of California for the right to marry.

Fred Martinez, Jr., known as F.C., was the two-spirit Navajo sixteen year-old bludgeoned to death near Cortez, Colorado in June 2001 for being gender nonconforming. Read his story and see photos of him at http://www.temenos.net/remember/martinez/ and http://andrejkoymasky.com/mem/fre/fre1.html

Donna Red Wing is Swedish and Native American and she's openly lesbian, a dynamite community organizer and a fierce GLBT civil rights activist. She used to be the National Field Director for the Human Rights Campaign, has been Director for the Gill Foundation's Outgiving Project and this year has served as a GLBT organizer for Howard Dean’s presidential campaign. Before all that, Red Wing helped lead the fight against Measure 9, an anti-gay ballot measure that would have amended Oregon's constitution to declare homosexuality "abnormal and perverse" behavior. http://www.donnaredwing.com/

We'Wha was, according to Bending the Mold: An Action Kit for Transgender Youth (a publication of NYAC and Lambda: http://www.nyacyouth.org/docs/Bending%20the%20Mold-final.pdf), "an accomplished Zuni Weaver and potter." She was "two spirit -- born male but lived as a woman. She spent six months in Washington, D.C., and met President Grover Cleveland, who never realized this six-foot Zuni maiden was born male."

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(4) Links to web sites by and for and about two-spirit/GLBT indigenous people

2SPR (Two-Spirit Press Room): http://home.earthlink.net/~lafor002/index.html
2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations (Toronto): http://www.2spirits.com/ … especially, scroll down on the right-hand side to "What Health Care Providers Can Learn: A History of 2 Spirited People" and also to the last item "We are Part of a Tradition"

Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits: http://www.baait.org
Nations of the 4 Directions - San Diego: www.notfd.blogspot.com
NativeOUT: http://nativeout.com/component/option,com_frontpage/Itemid,1/
Northeast Two Spirit Society: http://www.ne2ss.org/
Oklahoma Gay Natives: www.aai.org/programs/hiv_aidsoklahoma_gay_natives/oklahoma_gay_natives.htm
Queers for Reconciliation (Australia): http://www.queers4reconciliation.wild.net.au/index.html
Tulsa Two Spirits Society: http://www.denvertwospirit.com/tulsa.html
The Two Spirit Society of Denver:  http://www.denvertwospirit.com/  
Two Spirited People of the First Nations (Ontario):  http://www.cfis.ca/x2_spirited.htm

Two-spirit Honor Project, exploring how native culture and spirituality impact coping and health among urban two-spirit natives:  1-866-685-0164,  
http://www.honorsproj.com/studysites.html. Study sites include:  
- National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC), San Francisco/Oakland  
- United American Indian Involvement (UAII), Los Angeles  
- Indigenous People’s Task Force (IPTF), Minneapolis/St. Paul  
- American Indian Community House (AICH), New York City  
- University of Washington School of Social Work, Seattle

The Two-Spirit Tradition in Native American Experience:  http://www.androphile.org/preview/Culture/NativeAmerica/amerindian.htm

Utopia Hawaii, http://keliwai.50g.com/index1.htm

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(5) Books, Lesson Plans and Curricula (K-12) for teaching about gender

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS:
- Teaching ESL/EFL Students to Recognize Gender Bias in Children’s Literature:  
  http://iteslj.org/Articles/Kuo-GenderBias.html

PRE-K & ELEMENTARY:
- Francine's Bad Hair Day Episode #101, from the Arthur Series on PBS, examines how media affects feelings toward body image and gender stereotypes:  
  www-tc.pbskids.org/arthur/parentsteachers/lesson/medialiteracy/pdf/print_badhairday.pdf
- Gender Doesn’t Limit You! a six-lesson free online curriculum proven to counteract gender bullying in the early grades from Teaching Tolerance:  
  http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=841&ttnewsletter=ttnewsgen-092707
- Anti-Bias Curriculum: Tools for Empowering Young Children, book (really not a curriculum, per se) for early childhood educators – 1989, L. Derman-Sparks and the ABC Task Force of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. ISBN: 0935989920X. Activity ideas, though not “lesson plans” per se, and background for educators re: such issues as gender roles and family diversity for Pre-K and Kindergarten
- Nontraditional gender roles in children's literature:  
  http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~mjoseph/childlit/nontrad.htm#nontrad
- I Could Do That: Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote ($59.95 DVD), by Linda Arms White, is the true story of Esther Morris, who worked with politicians to gain women the right to vote. She became the first female judge and the first woman in the United States to hold a political office. The book comes with a downloadable study guide. (Grades 3-6) Item WDVD692, ISBN# 978-0-439-90569-5, Weston Woods, (800) 243-5020
- Girls Can Be Plumbers? – a free downloadable lesson from Teaching Tolerance:  
  http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=801

MIDDLE SCHOOL:
- Appreciating the Men of Ballet: lesson plan from PBS, the Public Broadcasting System:  
  http://www.pbs.org/wnet/gperf/education/plan_btbw_overview.html
• **Introduction to Gender Identity and Gender Expression**, a free lesson plan from Advocates for Youth’s Creating Safe Space for GLBTQ Youth: A Toolkit: http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/lessonplans/genderidentity.htm

• **When I Was a Boy**, song from the “Honesty Room” (1993) album by Dar Williams. A beautiful song about the absurdity, limitations and alienation of rigid gender roles. A lovely surprise ending, and great discussion starter. Available at any music store.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:**


**HIGH SCHOOL:**


• **Gender Talk: Exploring Media Messages about Gender Norms**, an online lesson plan from GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network: http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/educator/library/record/1277.html


• **Gender Variance**, an online lesson plan from Press for Change: www.pfc.org.uk/files/Lesson_Plan-Gender_Variance.pdf

• **Q & A on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**, an online lesson plan from Advocates for Youth's "Creating Safe Space for GLBTQ Youth: A Toolkit": http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/lessonplans/orientationidentity.htm

• “**Beyond the Binary: A Tool Kit for Gender Identity Activism in Schools**”: from the Gay-Straight Alliance Network/Tides Center, Transgender Law Center and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. **Beyond the Binary** is an informative, nuts-and-bolts manual that will help students and allies fight for gender justice. The manual features compelling personal accounts of gender identity and its complexity at home and in school. Student activists will find legal advice, community resources, and organizing strategies such as tips for organizing the Transgender Day of Remembrance. The manual will help students, teachers, and advocates to create safer school environments where gender equity is realized and affirmed. Download a copy here: http://www.gsanetwork.org

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(6) **Quotes from openly LGBT and/or two-spirit indigenous people and heterosexual indigenous allies to inspire students’ journaling**

"I have noticed that as soon as you have soldiers the story is called history. Before their arrival it is called myth, folktale, legend, fairy tale, oral poetry, ethnography. After the soldiers arrive, it is called history."
- Paula Gunn Allen

“You know, as an artist, it’s not my job to fit in; it’s not my job to belong. I’m not a social worker; I’m not a therapist. It’s my job to beat the s*** out of the world. I’m not here to make people feel..."
good...So you’re always battling the basic human need to be loved and accepted. That's always the conflict with the artistic need to challenge the world.”
-- Sherman Alexie

“My only regret about being gay is that I repressed it so long. I surrendered my youth to the people I feared when I could have been out there loving someone. Don’t make that mistake yourself. Life’s too damn short.”
-- Armistead Maupin

(7) Quotes from other openly LGBT folks to inspire students’ journaling

“Look back, to slavery, to suffrage, to integration and one thing is clear. Fashions in bigotry come and go. The right thing lasts.”
-- Anna Quindlen

"What the people want is very simple. They want an America as good as its promise."
-- Congresswoman Barbara Jordan

"You can hurt me. You can hate me, but do it because you know me, not because I’m a member of a group. Anyways, people aren’t grapes — you can’t weigh them in a bunch, but I guess it’s easier than dealing with people as individuals. There, I’ve solved the riddle of prejudice: it saves time."
-- author, Rita Mae Brown

“The reward for conformity was that everyone liked you except yourself.”
-- Rita Mae Brown

“No government has the right to tell its citizens when or whom to love. The only queer people are those who don’t love anybody.”
-- Rita Mae Brown

“I believe in not being put into ‘either/or’ — instead, I choose ‘and.’”
-- Mandy Carter, black lesbian social justice activist and co-founder of the National Black Justice Coalition, explaining that she doesn’t have one identity that trumps all her other identities

“Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else.”
-- Euro-American anthropologist, Margaret Mead

“If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so we weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place.”
-- Margaret Mead

“It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union.... Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less.”
-- Susan B. Anthony (Was she lesbian? Well, the term hadn’t been coined at that point, but see this perspective: http://www.glbtq.com/social-sciences/anthony_sb.html)
(8) Quotes from people whose sexual orientation and gender identity we don’t know …

about sexism, misogyny, gender, feminism, and homophobia

“The emotional, sexual, and psychological stereotyping of females begins when the doctor says, ‘It’s a girl.’”
-- Congresswoman (and 1972 presidential candidate) Shirley Chisholm

“Feminism is the radical notion that women are people.”
-- Cheris Kramarae and Paula Treichler

“Men are taught to apologize for their weaknesses, women for their strengths.”
-- Lois Wyse

“I became a feminist as an alternative to becoming a masochist.”
-- Sally Kempton, attributed

“How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-ros!”
-- Maya Angelou

“We’ve begun to raise daughters more like sons... but few have the courage to raise our sons more like our daughters.”
-- Gloria Steinem

“There is more difference within the sexes than between them.”
-- Ivy Compton-Burnett, Mother and Son

“Homophobia is like racism and anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry in that it seeks to dehumanize a large group of people, to deny their humanity, their dignity and personhood.”
-- Coretta Scott King

“Homophobia and transphobia pressure straight people to act unkindly or even cruelly towards GLBTQ people and encourage bullying and cruelty toward anyone whose appearance or behavior isn’t sufficiently ‘macho’ or ‘feminine’ (from the viewpoint of the bully).”
-- Advocates for Youth’s 14 Ways Homophobia and Transphobia Affect Everyone

(9) Quotes from people whose sexual orientation and gender identity we don’t know …

about elections and voting and democracy

“Bad politicians are sent to Washington by good people who don’t vote.”
-- William E. Simon

“Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost.”
-- John Quincy Adams

“Those who stay away from the election think that one vote will do no good: ‘Tis but one step more to think one vote will do no harm.”
-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

“To make democracy work, we must be a notion of participants, not simply observers. One who does not vote has no right to complain.”
-- Louis L’Amour

“People who don’t vote have no line of credit with people who are elected and thus pose no threat to those who act against our interests.”
-- Marian Wright Edelman

(10) Rock your Rights … what to do if your right to vote is challenged at the polls (from RocktheVote.org)

“For the most part, voting is easy. If you’re at least 18 years old and a U.S. citizen, you’re good to go.

But unfortunately, sometimes sh*t happens. From confusing rules and bureaucratic snafus to intentional efforts to stop students, young people of color, and others from voting, we face threats to our rights every election year.

What Can You Do?

If you’re wrongfully turned away from the polls or denied the right to register to vote, call 1-866-OUR-VOTE (or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA), a hotline run by our [RocktheVote’s] partners at the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law. They can help you out. With our partners – including the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights, Video the Vote, and many, many more – we’re fighting to make sure every eligible 18-29 year old can vote on November 4, 2008.